

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

March 20th, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Sharon Dever; Thomas DeWhirst, Robb Liekis, Bobby Glasser, Stephen Romenelli, Tressa Greshak, David DeBack and Damaris Potter

ABSENT: David Benac, Vice-Chair; Rachel Jondle

STAFF: Carrie Soule (recording secretary),
Justin Gish, Jean Hess, Commissioner,
Alexa Hempel

OTHERS: Chris Broadbent (Solid Waste
Coordinator), Hailey Iglewski (Michigan
Consulting & Environmental)

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

ASSURANCE OF LIVE STREAMING (Facebook/You Tube)

Recording/Streaming of the meeting was confirmed, with community members joining via a link posted on the City's Facebook page.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (04/17/2024)

Chair Dever asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the April 17, 2024, meeting.

Committee Member made a motion to approve the Agenda and was supported. With a voice vote the motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for 03/20/2024

Chair Dever asked the Committee Members if there were any changes to the March 20, 2024 meeting minutes. There were no changes to the meeting minutes.

Committee Member made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes and was supported. With a voice vote the motion was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Individual/Announcements: Answering an email from LaShundra, Michigan Department of EGLE's new grant, Home Energy Rebate Program (HER), to clean energy equipment and improve/reduce energy efficiency indoor and outdoor air pollution and create workforce training programs. Want to make City of Kalamazoo aware and see if will be beneficial.

News/Educational Items: Jean Hess – Joyful shop downtown recycles and will take soft plastics which is used to make eco bricks and other projects. There are boxes out front and she will help with different types of recycling. Bicycle Lanes were approved on Howard and Lovell St.

COMMENTS BY OTHERS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Dever asked if there were any comments on the phones. There were no callers.

Chair Dever opened discussion for comments by others.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS (AS NEEDED)

ONGOING BUSINESS

Waste Update with Chris Broadbent (Solid Waste Coordinator): Last few months of Solid waste, recycling, brush pickups and bulk trash, in January we recycled 161 tons of material from the curbside and added paper cups, cleaned and dried with the polystyrene rigid plastic lid as well. Continue working with facility and haulers to add new items to the cart and increase volumes. February 183 tons and March was 157 tons of recycled and reduced missed containers down to 8 with 12, 658 service stops. First bulk trash month in March and collected 269 tons at the curb. Hazardous waste was collected at City facilities, Stockbridge public services and Wastewater facility at Harrison, a lot of it was inflammable so was able to take to Center on Lamont, which we do get invoices but residents can drop off at no cost.

- Community Sustainability Plan: Natural World Symposium at Girl Scouts Regional Training Facility on Maple St, April 27th from 9am-2pm, 3 speakers which will be Innovative Species, urban deer and Natural Lawns. Attempt to build community, girl scouts will be selling cookies, it is a free event. First 50 registered attendees will get a No Mow May yard sign. If you and your neighbor both participate are the

guidelines still the same? Grant used to fund our charging stations is an Energy Efficiency and conservation block grant from the US Department of Energy.

Events:

- Saturday was a bulk drop-off Saturday April 20th
EPS Foam/Electronics/paper shredding services drop-off on April 20th, July 13th, October 12th and December 28th, 2024.
- Natural World Symposium at Girl Scouts Regional Training Facility on Maple St, April 27th 9-2
- Planting Trees - Tuesday April 23rd 5-7
- Bike Show – May 11th 10-2 at Bronson Park
- Tire Blitz- June 11th, 322 E Stockbridge for free tire drop-off
- Kalamazoo River Clean up, Vine Neighborhood on Saturday April 20th
- Garlic Mustard Pool by Alpa– Saturday, May 7th 10am- 12pm and 1pm- 3pm please register on Alpa's website
- Controlled burn (weather permitting) sometime between April 9th and May 15th

UPCOMING BUSINESS

- EPS Foam/Electronics/paper shredding services drop-off on April 20th, July 13th, October 12th and December 28th, 2024 – EPS Foam can be turned into construction material, insulation boards, roof sheathing, crown molding molds, and CD Jewel cases. We can now take toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, floss packs, and flossers, not for the cart but can be dropped off quarterly at the events. We fill our dumpsters at the quarterly drop-offs. City offices and Public Services will have co-mingle recycling dumpsters with a new contract with Waste Management. Terra Cycle will also help with recycling Coffee pods, and use the coffee grounds for compost, they received 14 lbs of coffee pods and bins at City Hall, at Harrison and Wastewater facility and Public Services. We are looking to have more than just quarterly. Atlas Molded Products and Roofing in Byron Center buy all of the EPS foam we recycle through this program for Roof sheathing, forming for road building, terraforming activities, concrete wall-building forms, and CD cases. We secured \$300,000 plus dollars from EGLE and the recycle partnership to work on 2 programs, the behavior changes with single-family homes and increasing the participation for out multi-units across the City. We need to keep looking for more ideas and ways to recycle. Hoping for graphs next time we have updates for trash and recycling to see progress and differences. Next bulk pickup will not take EPS or Electronics but can take on July 13th for free drop-off.

NEW BUSINESS

- Hailey Iglewski (Michigan Consulting & Environmental) Brighton Office: Showing a PowerPoint Presentation- researching all aspects of sustainability about EGLE's composting, carbon swaps, etc. Canton township was looking into Compost facility with the lifespan of the landfill is kind of in it's last

decades. Year-long Pilot program towards a volunteer-based program and reached out to the community to see who has interest or experience and had a great response. They have 4 locations placed throughout the community where 3 -10 64-gallon carts for waste/trash carts for food waste only and let 500 volunteers for the study. Drop-off sites were open 24/7 and they get to keep buckets, benefits are they accept dairy products, meat and bones which are the most difficult organic materials to break down. The Facility has the infrastructure to break down, very quickly they filled the 500 Volunteer spots and added another 100. Local drop-off sites had 5 carts at each location and sized them to usage, with some sites going up to as many as 10 or down to 3. Hailey travels to all sites on Thursdays to inspect an idea to see how much or if any issues. In this year they collected 170,000 lbs. of waste from about 450 volunteers, which averages out to 7 lbs a month from each individual. They have an email set up and a survey site is available for more data. They are opening a 6th one and now it's going to be a permanent program for the Community. After the first year, they have another 475 volunteers and 40,000 lbs. so far this year. Pricing does vary depending on how many sites, how often they are serviced, and the distance from the compost facility. They provide 2-gallon bins to everyone, \$3.60 per unit and 64-gallon bins are one-time purchase with a drop-off fee and a weekly servicing fee. How big is Canton and pilot programs cost? \$50,000 was a cost for the pilot program. Question on smell and animals, no issues with wildlife or odors, they are lined with BPI bags. What are you doing with extra composting? No extra. Testing for the final product is sent to another facility for testing and the comments she received were that it was GOLD. How was this surveyed before the pilot program? Facebook, flyers, and website are the ways this was communicated. Not much interest in other Townships at this point, mostly because of budget issues.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

- ***Natural Features Protection (NFP) Review Board***– Mr. Glasser – Did not meet, looking to fill Mr. Glasser's position on board, looking for Geologists, hydrogeologists, Environmental Scientists or Nature Scientists.
- ***Air and Water Quality*** – Mr. Glasser – Announcement came out April 10th from the Federal EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act, set new National primary drinking water regulations for maximum concentration limits for 6 regulated PFAS chemicals. Since 2021 the target concentration limit has usually been around 70 parts per trillion and is now legally enforceable maximum concentration levels in drinking water. PFOA is at 4 parts per trillion which is quite an order of magnitude from 70. A group called PFH Sub XS is at 10 parts per trillion along with PFNA, there's an Association called Gen X chemical group within the PFAS and they are also at 10 parts per trillion. Have until 2027 to comply, or 5 years to implement solutions. Air can be monitored on the EPA website.
- ***Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection*** – Ms. Greshak – No Updates see website
- ***City of Kalamazoo Planning Commission*** – Ms. Jondle – No Update
- ***Tree Committee*** – Mr. DeWhirst – Did not meet – Researching Urban Forest Network and what other cities are utilizing, City of Ann Arbor is using Urban Ashes and this is the one on the National scene and will be invited to May's meeting.
- ***Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council*** – Ms. Dever –
- ***Parks & Recreation Advisory Board*** – Mr. Liekis – no updates/events
- ***Kalamazoo River Watershed Council*** – Mr. Benac – no updates
- ***Wellhead Protection Program Committee – Quarterly*** - Jean Hess (May)
- ***Odor Task Force – Quarterly*** – Mr. Benac (May)

CHECK PHONE LINES AND STREAMING FOR COMMENTS:

311 can be dialed within City or outside City at 269-337-8000

Question about emails that the board receives and who is responsible for answering, depending on the situation and who would be better equipped to answer.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm